## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This notice supersedes instruction no. 7 in Form OF-169 and information contained in OF-167.

Beginning December, 19, 1997, U.S. immigration law requires all applications for immigrant visas in the categories listed below to be accompanied by a contractually binding affidavit of support (Form I-864) which has been signed by the petitioner. Most applicants in the categories identified below must submit a properly notarized I-864 to qualify for a visa. Applicants who made formal application for a visa prior to December 19, 1997, but have not yet received visas, may not be required to submit the new form and should contact the immigrant visa office where they applied for the visa to verify which form is needed. Applicants must present completed forms at the time of visa interview. Do not mail forms to a consular section, the National Visa Center, or the Immigration and Naturalization Service unless specifically instructed to do so.

The National Visa Center will include the I-864 with routine information packets. Petitioners and other inquirers may obtain additional information and copies of the I-864 through the Bureau of Consular Affairs Autofax service (telephone no . 202-647-3000), the Bureau of Consular Affairs web site (HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE/GOV/VISA\_SER-VICES.HTML), or through their local Immigration and Naturalization Service office.

<u>Purpose of the form</u>: To assist consular officers in determining whether an intending immigrant has adequate means of financial support and will not become a public charge. By executing this form, the petitioner agrees to reimburse any government agency or private entity that provides the sponsored alien with any means-tested public benefits.

Who needs an affidavit of support under INA Section 213A?

- All family-based immigrants, including adoptions (self-petitioning widow / ers and battered spouses and children are exempt from this requirement); and
- Those employment-based immigrants who are petitioned by a relative or by a business in which a relative has significant ownership or interests.

Who completes an affidavit of support under section INA 213A? The person completing the affidavit is the sponsor.

- For family-based immigrants, the petitioner must be the sponsor regardless of his/her income.
- For employment-based immigrants, the petitioning relative or relative with significant ownership interest in the petitioning entity must be the sponsor.
- Under certain circumstances, a joint sponsor / s may also submit a Form I-864.

An~I-864 with all supporting documents must be submitted for <u>each visa applicant</u>, including eligible accompanying family member. Photocopies may be submitted for accompanying family members, but must have original signatures and notarizations. Photocopies of the signature and notarization will not be accepted.

Validity of the I-864 and I-864A :The I-864 and I-864A must be submitted to a consular officer within six months of the date they are signed and notarized, or new forms will be required. A form submitted within six months of signature will have an unlimited validity and will not expire. However, a consular officer may require supporting documents that are over 12 months old to be updated.

<u>I-864A printing error</u>: Part I of the I-864A may contain a printing error in the "relationship to sponsor" box. Please note that household members should complete part 3 and sponsored immigrants/household members should complete part 4.

Detailed information regarding the sponsor's obligations under the new provisions and instructions for completing the new affidavit of support are provided with the new form I-864.

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## 重要通知

此通知代替0F-169表第七部分和0F-167表的内容。

从1997年12月19日起,美国移民法例将要求下列移民签证申请类别的所有申请人必需提供一份由美国申请人签名的具有契约性质和约束力的经济担保书(I-864表)。下述类别的大部份申请人必须呈交一份经过适当认证的I-864表来满足签证申请的需要。在1997年12月19日之前已经接受签证问话,但没有获得签证批准的申请人,不要求呈交新表。这些申请人必须与申请签证的移民签证处联系,以便确定他们需要呈交那一类表。申请人必须在签证问话时呈交I-864表。除了个别有要求之外,不要把I-864表邮寄到-领事馆或档案管理中心及移民局。

美国档案管理中心会在例行的资料包里附上I-864表。其它美国的申请人和需要者可通过领事事务局的自动传真服务索取I-864表和其它有关资料(电话: 202-647-3000),领事事务局的电脑网址是(HTTP: //TRAVEL • STATE • GOV/VISASERVICES - • HTML)。此外,也可向美国当地移民局索取I-864表。

使用新表的目的: I-864表有助于领事官判断旨在移民的申请人是否有足够的经济担保财力而不会成为公众负担。通过使用这份经签名盖章手续使其具有效力的表格,美国申请人同意偿还任何由政府部门或私人机构,在发放救济津贴之前对申请人的家庭经济做过调查之后,提供给被担保人的任何公益救济金。

下列是根据移民法例213A条例,需要有生活担保书的人:

- 所有亲属类移民的申请人,包括收养类别(除了自我申请的寡妇/鳏夫和被欧打的配偶及孩子之外)均需要生活担保书。
- 职业类移民的申请人中,如果该申请是由在美国的亲戚提出的,或者在美国的亲戚在该项生意中拥有主要股份或股权的申请人,需要有生活担保书。

下列是根据移民法例213A条例,需要提供生活担保书的人:

提供担保书的人即是担保人。

- 亲属移民类别:美国的申请人,不管其收入状况如何,都必须做担保人。
- 职业移民类别:提出申请且在该生意中拥有主要股份或股权的美国亲戚必须提供生活担保书。
- 在某些情况下, 联名担保者也可提供生活担保书。

每位签证申请人,包括合法随行成员,都需要呈交一份I-864表及其经济证明文件。家庭随行成员可呈交I-864表的复印件,但复印件必须由担保人亲自签名并且经过认证。有担保人签名并经过认证的I-864表再进行复印的复印件不予接收。

I-864表和I-864A表的有效期限: I-864表和I-864A表必须在签名和认证时间起的六个月内呈交给领事官员, 否则, 需要重新办理新的表。在签名和认证之后的六个月内呈交的表不受期限限制, 不会过期。不过, 领事官员也许会要求更新超过十二个月的有关经济证明文件。

<u>I-864A表印刷错误:</u> 在I-864A表的第一部分中,可能在"与担保人关系"这一栏出现印刷错误。请注意,担保人的家庭成员必须填写第三部分,而被担保的移民者及其家庭成员须填写第四部分。

有关担保人依照新规定所负的职责这一方面的细则以及填写新的生活担保书内容的有关说明会与新的I-864表一起提供。

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